



**UNITED STATES – AFRICA SUMMIT
NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

—

The convening of the first USA- Africa Leaders' Summit attests to the vibrant and traditional ties that link Africa to the United States. With the recent unprecedented economic growth in many of our countries, these relations gain more momentum and new horizons.

Egypt appreciates the important role that the United States plays in Africa, in particular with regard to investing in Africa's future generations by contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, counterterrorism and mediation efforts in African conflicts, as well as by empowering African youth and women. Increased American private sector investment in Africa and the many examples of successful Public-Private partnerships point to commendable endeavors on both sides to achieve their common interests.

Our summit coincides with a challenging chapter of Egypt's long history. Egypt has witnessed two unprecedented popular revolutions in less than three years, and is now on the threshold of a future that promises great opportunities, yet it is fraught with numerous challenges.

In this respect, Egypt has embarked on two interrelated paths; on one hand by consolidating its national political, economic, and social infrastructure to meet the aspirations of its people, and on the other hand by fostering existing relations and envisioning new horizons of cooperation with our partners at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

On the national level, and following the successful conduct of the referendum on the constitutional amendments last January and the Presidential elections last May, the Egyptian people are moving steadily in implementing the remaining milestone of the "Roadmap for the Future" they have chosen to achieve justice, freedom, respect of human rights, namely holding the parliamentary elections in the next fall.

Furthermore, great efforts are being exerted to reinvigorate the Egyptian economy aiming at unleashing its full potential to alleviate poverty, create jobs, and achieve overall sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In this regard, creating an enabling environment for foreign direct investments is a key priority for the government which is currently implementing a robust national plan to improve investment regulations in order to attract more domestic and foreign investments.

In the same vein, Africa is also experiencing major transformations, many of our countries achieved unprecedented economic growth during the past few years. However, this is coupled with the challenge to achieve inclusive growth and to address the consequences of social and economic exclusion. Furthermore, our continent is facing not only the traditional pattern of conflicts but a series of emerging non-conventional security threats such as trans-boundary terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking.

In the midst of this historical transformation, Egypt is proud of its African roots, not only out of historical consideration but also out of a firm conviction that enhancing cooperation with its fellow African countries, as well as strengthening regional integration endeavors, will immensely contribute to national and continental efforts, that aim at addressing the common socio-economic challenges our countries face.

Overcoming the challenges Africa is grappled with today is part and parcel of the dream that started decades ago with the national liberation struggle, which encompassed a definition of independence that entails not only the political aspect but also the empowerment of our peoples and guaranteeing their civil, political, economic and social rights.

Egypt takes further pride in Africa's inspirational liberation struggle, as well as in its contribution thereto. It continues to pursue the common objectives of all African countries through supporting African mechanisms, in

implementation of the principle of “African Solutions to African Problems”, participating in most peace support operations on the continent, playing a constructive role in the African Union, and at the bilateral level by contributing to socioeconomic development on the continent through diversified programs in the fields of capacity building, infrastructure, energy, transportation, health, education, irrigation and agriculture.

We firmly believe that Egypt can play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges, taking into account its experience with socioeconomic development, as well as its successful south/south development cooperation with its sisterly African countries, which started several decades ago.

In this respect, Egypt established several institutions to support socio economic development programs as well as efforts to achieve peace and security on the continent, most notably the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development which took over the role of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (established in 1980), and the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) among others. The Egyptian private sector also has substantively contributed to various areas of development across Africa in projects such as roads, hospitals, renewable energy production, and industry. The new Egypt is determined to intensify existing ties with all African nations and raise them to new levels that reflect the importance of Africa to Egypt and vice versa.

In this respect, we look forward to mutual cooperation collectively and along with our American partners to initiate forms of trilateral cooperation, aiming at contributing to development in African countries, building on the multifaceted Egyptian experience in this regard especially in fields such as capacity building, health care, education and infrastructure, all in all positioning Egypt as a pivotal development hub in Africa.

We also look forward to enhancing the Egyptian private sector engagement with its African and American counterparts to contribute to economic development of our continent, in particular in areas like infrastructure, energy, and industry taking into consideration Egyptian private sector's expertise and its experience in African markets.

Africa confronts a complex array of challenges that affect peace and stability in several of its countries. In this regard, Egypt believes that the peace and security that Africa yearns for requires not only political solutions to the current conflicts but also concrete remedies for the social and economic root causes thereof.

The African Union through the African Peace and Security Architecture has developed a set of mechanisms to address security challenges on the continent. Yet, it is evident that Africa is in need of more efficient capabilities for conflict prevention, peace enforcement, peace - keeping, and peace building. This can best be achieved by coordinating all international efforts that aim to support peace and security in Africa and aligning them with Africa's own priorities and needs.

In this context, we are looking forward to an enhanced American support to African mechanisms that aim at bringing peace to Africa's conventional and unconventional conflicts and crisis, such as the African Standby Force and the Regional Standby Forces, in addition to capacity building in the security area. The United States as well can also play a pivotal role in supporting efforts of post-conflict construction and peace building activities which are critical for the transformation of countries emerging from conflicts and crisis.

African countries collectively have succeeded over the past few years in achieving a growth rate higher than the global average. The vast potential and resources of Africa are still untapped, paving the way for a prosperous future for the African peoples if efficiently planned and managed. It is

worth noting that as huge and diversified the African economic potentials may be, they have not yet met the aspirations of African peoples on the micro-economic level including unemployment, inflation rate, and poverty levels.

We appreciate the efforts of the United States to support the sustainable development and economic growth in Africa through a wide range of programs and initiatives administrated by the United States Government and in cooperation with private partnerships, in some cases. Several of these initiatives have left their mark on African economic growth, especially Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, Power Africa Initiative, Trade Africa Initiative, the Feed the Future Initiative, the Global Health Initiative, in addition to other USAID programs.

There are several tracks that could further enhance the effectiveness of the United States role in supporting Africa's development and enhance its trade and economic ties with African countries. First, by aligning U.S. initiatives and programs with the African development agendas, namely the Common Africa Position regarding the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the 2063 Africa Agenda. Second, by supporting efforts to enhance inter-African trade and regional integration. Third, by expanding and liberalizing trade with Africa especially in agricultural products. Forth, by further enhancing South-South and inter-African development cooperation through partnering with leading African countries to assist in advancing the development agenda throughout the continent. Egypt is committed to play a role in this regard with its accumulated experiences in many fields in Africa.

About 65% of the total population in Africa is below the age of 35, making it the most youthful continent. By 2020, it is projected that three out of every four people on the continent will be an average 20 years old. Furthermore, investing in capacity building, educational and health care programs targeting women and young girls is a prerequisite for an all

inclusive economic growth. Thus, “Investing in the Next Generation” is indeed a well articulated title for this Summit.

In this regard, Egypt attaches great importance to empowering its youth. Their creative energy has been the driving force behind Egypt’s recent transformation. That is why Egypt focuses with regard to its development cooperation with African countries on capacity building programs for African youth, out of our belief that youth will be the locomotive of our growth into the future. Egypt looks forward to working with the United States and all African nations to ensure that African youth receive the attention and support they deserve to enable them to build a better future for all of us.

As we thank the United States government for hosting the first United States –Africa Summit and for the hospitality extended to all delegations. Egypt is looking forward to successful deliberations and outcomes and is keen on working closely with our host country and fellow African nations in following up on the outcome of this historical summit with a view to advance our common goals and see success in our endeavors.
